



Select Board /Assessors Meeting Summary

April 10, 2024

7 p.m.

Select Board members present: Katherine Grinnell and Mitchell Garnett

Others present: Town Clerk Mary Anderson, CEO David Studer, Maine Farmland Trust Municipal Policy Associate Thacher Carter

Kate called the Select Board meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Approve Summary of April 3, 2024: Motion to approve summary by Mitch, Kate seconded. All in favor, motion carries.

Sign Treasurer's Warrants dated April 11, 2024:

P/R Warrant #29: \$10,289.64

A/P Warrant #30: \$22,990.46

Motion to approve warrants by Mitch, Kate seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

Road Foreman Report: Written by Frank Jones Jr. and read by Kate

4/1: Worked on P100 and P200; put plows and wings on

4/2: Started to chip downed trees

4/3: Chipped downed trees before the storm; Frank called the guys in to plow at 11 p.m.

4/4: Plowed

4/5: Plowed and cut downed trees; Frank called Jason Chapman in at 4 a.m.

4/6: Continued to plow and cut downed trees

CEO Report: Dave handed out a list of approved land use/building permits for 2024 (6 total); no additional permits were issued prior to the meeting. The Planning Board met last night (Tuesday) and Dave will put together the findings of fact for the Haining camp on Washington Pond for which variances were approved. The camp already is non-conforming because of its proximity to the water and setbacks; the footprint of the camp will remain the same, though the piling foundation will be replaced with a cement slab.

Mitch asked Dave if he is available to attend a candidate interview for CEO/LPI next week at 6 p.m. He also asked if Dave had been in contact with Wayne Kirkpatrick about his streetlights' glare on Route 17. Dave said he hasn't spoken with Wayne yet but suggested a physical shield around the lights might work. He will stop by to speak with Wayne.

Health Officer Report: None.

Town Clerk/Treasurer's Report: The FEMA reimbursement money received last week has been moved into the Roads Reserve Account. The checking account balance is \$230,378.

Town attorney Peter Drum called after the Select Board meeting adjourned last week and spoke with Select Board members and Dave on speakerphone.

Dave and Peter were supposed to meet Monday but Peter failed to contact Dave with a time.

Mary submitted information to the Spirit of America awards organization, which will extend an invitation to Washington's 2024 awardee Don Grinnell to attend the annual recognition ceremony.

The health insurance reimbursement for eligible employees was completed this week.

This afternoon, Mary participated in a video meeting about broadband insurance. Costs could be as low as \$7,500 per year for a \$5 million policy; Mary will discuss the information with the rest of the Broadband Board.

Broadband update: None.

Other Agenda Items: Thacher Carter with Maine Farmland Trust spoke about a new program targeting municipal outreach and technical assistance that could be funded by a USDA grant. The three-year grant would allow for a more structured approach to municipal assistance than MFT has been able to provide in the past. The RFP hasn't been released yet but there are population and income criteria that Washington meets – the town also is required to apply with two or three other municipalities, which could be Waldoboro and Appleton if all are interested. The applying towns MFT is looking for should have some established agriculture and few planning resources. There is no cost to the towns to apply. Thacher said the goal is to establish a three-year program. The first year would be for trainings with any boards or committees or municipal officials interested as well as farm/farmer listening sessions. The second and third years would involve implementing the trainings. It is possible other organizations such as MOFGA or Midcoast Council of Governments could be brought in to assist with trainings. The town of Winslow already has done a lot of farm-friendly work and could be consulted as well.

Select Board members asked a few questions but generally were in favor of the grant application. Thacher said there is a USDA form the town would need to complete as part of the grant application process, and a letter of support/interest could be submitted as well. Mary asked if the Comprehensive Plan Committee, which was recently established, should wait until after the grant is received (if the town agrees to support it) before having Thacher come speak. Thacher said he would be willing to talk to the committee either way. As far as the grant application process, it is up to the Select Board to sign-off on the application and author a letter of support if they choose. Select Board members will discuss further before making a decision.

Other business: Select Board members signed the February bank statement.

Mitch made a motion to adopt changes to the Personnel Policy (increasing to 90 percent of health care coverage for eligible employees from 80 percent; clarifying Select Board stipend guidelines to pay the seated board member from January to March), Kate seconded; all in favor, motion carries.

Questions/comments: None.

Mitch made a motion to adjourn, Kate seconded; meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Grinnell